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DESCRIPTION OF A BRACHYPTEROUS FIREFLY  
FEMALE OF THE GENUS PHOTINUS  
(COLEOPTERA: LAMPYRIDAE)<sup>1</sup>

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In the revision of the genus *Photinus* by J. W. Green (1956) the females of seven of the 28 described Nearctic species were found to be brachypterous and the females of two more species were suspected to be so. No females of the species *P. frosti* Green and *P. tenuicinctus* Green were in collections at that time. On June 29, 1964, two females of *P. tenuicinctus* (fig. 1) were collected at Fayetteville, Arkansas.

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*Photinus tenuicinctus* Green, FEMALE. Brachypterous, texture firm. Eyes small, separated by more than diameter of eye. Pronotum with piceous central spot slightly narrowing posteriorly, nearly attaining base and diffusing anteriorly without reaching apex; rectangular area each side of central spot fulvous; pronotal margin flavate and weakly translucent laterally and anteriorly. Base of scutellum and mesonotal areas piceous, scutellum pale in about apical half. Elytra black, extending slightly beyond apical margin of first abdominal tergite; sutural bead and lateral margins pale fulvous, continuously around apex. Abdomen above piceous black, pygidium perceptibly lighter. Ventral abdominal segments 2-5, 7 brown, 6 pale, luminous in median third, 8 flavate. Length 9.5 and 11.5 mm.

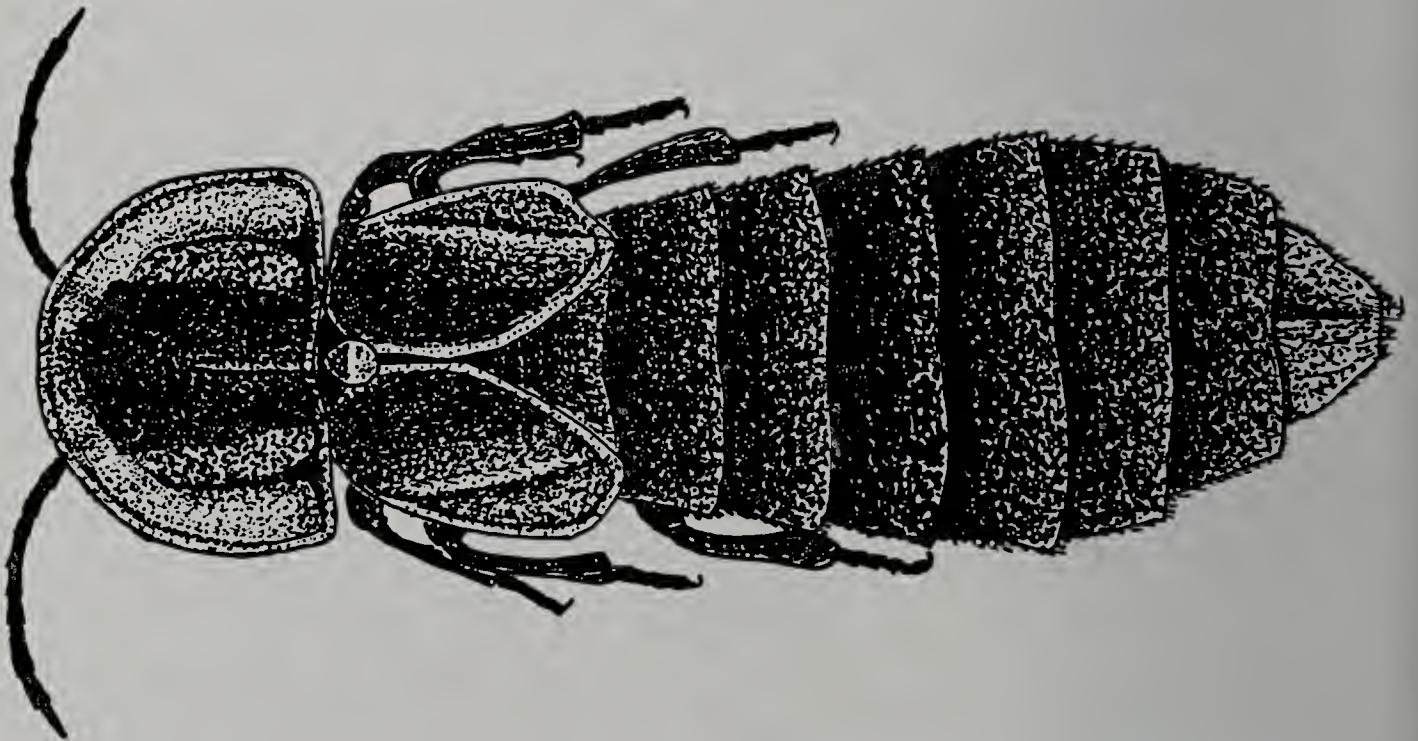


FIGURE 1. *Photinus tenuicinctus*, brachypterous female, length 9.5 mm.

The species *P. tenuicinctus*, *P. brimleyi* Green, and *P. punctulatus* LeConte are closely related and form a natural group within the genus. The females now in collections may be separated by the following key.

1. Pronotum with central dark spot; pronotum with median longitudinal impression or carina; body texture firm; pronotum narrowly rounded anteriorly ----- 2  
 Pronotum without central dark spot; pronotum without median longitudinal impression or carina; body texture soft; pronotum broadly rounded anteriorly --- BRIMLEYI
2. Pronotum punctate (individual pits usually clearcut and well defined); pronotal spot narrowing posteriorly (wedge-shaped); pronotum with median impressed longitudinal line ----- PUNCTULATUS  
 Pronotum not punctate (individual pits occasionally seen but usually obscured by surface irregularities); pronotal spot only slightly narrowing posteriorly; pronotum with median longitudinal carina in basal half ----- TENUICINCTUS

Because of the limited number of specimens available it is impossible to know the general value of the key characters given. For example, males of *P. brimleyi* do have a pronotal spot and the absence of it in the two females now present in collections may not reflect the general condition.

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